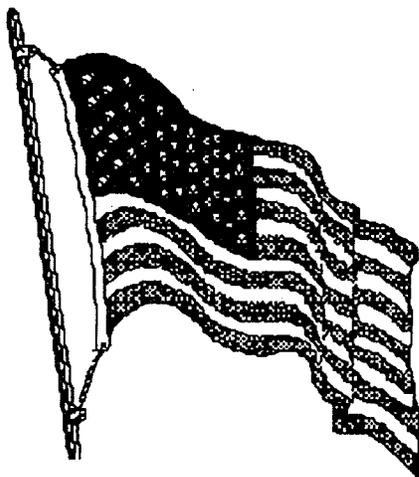


SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)
Volume 8 Number 7

Organized in 1921
July 1992



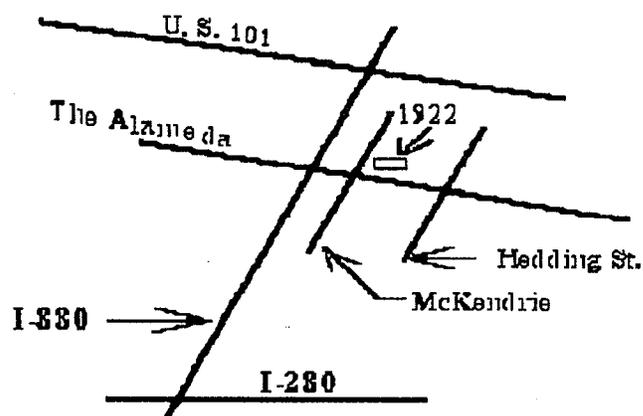
Next Meeting

Date: Monday 7/13/92
Time: 1930 - 2200 Approx.
Place: United Way Bldg.
1922 The Alameda

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a month for SCCARA. Many thanks to the 25+ people who helped out at our sponsorship of the June Foothill Flea Market. I believe that the weather couldn't have been better and our crew was kept very busy. Special thanks to Lou WA6QYS who was the chairman for the event. We had members out there at 0430 checking vendors in and people at 1400 in the afternoon nudging the last vendors out. My hat is off to all of you that made this a good money maker for the club plus fun for all. Hats off also to the Perham Foundation that allowed us a spot in the first place.

Next on the agenda was the annual Field Day held at Mount Madonna. Talk about a well organized affair. Thanks go to Doug WN6U who was the Field day Chair, Gary who "really came through" with a very nice computer logging program, Dave Larton



Agenda

At press time we were again scheduled to have a talk on the Hubbell Telescope. Again, please monitor W6UU/R for more current information.

Important Dates

- 07/11 Foothill Flea Market
- 07/13 SCCARA Monthly Meeting
- 07/27 SCCARA Board Meeting
- 07/29 SCCARA-GRAM Deadline
- 08/01 SVECS Quartely Breakfast.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

N6JQJ and the city of Gilroy Fire Department for the loan of their comm van for use as the CW station and the Red Cross who provided the "whale" for the novice station. In addition, the Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast was cooked and served by the Red Cross. As it turns out, it was a drill for them also to keep their skill up in the event of a real emergency.

And now for a little club business. I would like to welcome Doug WN6U, who will be taking the place of Herb KB6ABG on the SCCARA board.

We will be discussing the possibility of interleaving a bonafide novice/ no code tech class into our weekly code upgrade class at our next meeting. The class will be held in the fall and will require several instructors.

In closing, I feel that we have a great club. And it is volunteers, LIKE YOU, that make it that way. See you at the meeting.

73... Mike KB6LCJ

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 1992

Call to order: 1932 PDST.

Trish, WA6UBE explains the military surplus telephone switch-board and a few handsets she brought, to be used between sites at Field Day.

Mike, KB6LCJ then directs attention to the computers set up in the room. Two systems; an IBM-XT and a 286. These will do the logging of contacts for SCCARA's Field Day stations. Gary, WB6YRU is the programmer and (I think) will become famous for this effort.

Mike proceeds with pointing out the new (very good looking) Club Banner on display up front. See it

at Field Day!

Mike invites George to relate some good news. He explains that SCCARA has been officially named a "Special Service Club". What does this mean? One thing, for instance, the Club can approve W.A.S. for those who submit the QSL cards.

Mike announces that Pacificon will be in Concord this year; Some-time in October (16-18, ed.). Look forward to this; more info to follow.

The Christmas Party date is firm. Dec. 18 at Renzo's (same place as last year). Good Show.

Flea Market: Lou WA6QYS who has signed up some helpers, passes the list asks more to add their names.

Field Day: Barbara Britten (XYL of KA6YMD) volunteered to do cooking! Thank you very much. Kinda looks like we can make it after all.

Bill N6ZPC not here this evening so, as a result, no prize drawings tonight.

Trish WA6UBE moved that the club pay parking fees for members working at the SCCARA sponsored Flea Market on June 13th. Motion was seconded and carried.

Motion to adjourn; so done: 2122 P.D.S.T.

submitted for members' approval.
73... Gene Duckett, W6LYG, Sec'y.

PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE JULY 1992

Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

NUMBERS. At the end of April 1992 there were 563,628 Amateur Licenses. Of these licenses, 171,803 are Technician. There have been over 3,000 new Technician License issues each month during February, March and April 1992.

ARRL membership is at an all time

high. At the end of May there were 158,242 members of ARRL (Full and Associate). There are 2,091 subscriptions making the grand total; 160,333. That is about 5,500 more than at the end of 1991. Pacific Division Membership is 10,501 as of May 31, 1992, which is up nearly 400 from May 1991. The Clubs are thanked for their efforts to recruit members of ARRL. Your efforts make the ARRL grow, which makes it a stronger voice for Amateur Radio.

H.R.73 & S.1372 REPORT. Your July 1992 QST has an update on the status of H.R. 73 and S. 1372, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991. This legislation needs to be passed by the end of this session of Congress in December 1992 or it will be dead. There are 177 members of the House who are co-sponsors of H.R. 73.

Please read the article on page 44 of the July 1992 QST. You will be able to tell if your Representative and Senators are co-sponsors. Then write your letters and Please send copies of them to Perry Williams at ARRL Headquarters.

S. 218 THE SPECTRUM AUCTION BILL. Another problem in the Congress is S. 218. This bill would cause the government to give back 200 MHz of spectrum for private sector use. The catch is that between 420 MHz and 5 GHz the government and amateurs share frequencies. In order to get funds for replacement circuits, S.218 proposes to auction the frequencies. This could be detrimental to Amateur Radio. Keep you word processors ready and be prepared to write to your Senators if you are asked to do so.

FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS. Since April 15, 1992, the FCC has issued a large number of Notices of Apparent Liability (fines) for big amounts of money to violators of FCC Rules. Hopefully, the FCC En-

forcement at a higher level, will help to clean up some of the problems on Amateur Bands. The NAL's have been in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000. The FCC has set the fine for violations of tower painting and lighting rules at \$8,000. If your club has its repeater on a commercial tower that requires painting and lighting, please make sure the tower meets the rules.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS IN PUERTO RICO. Now through November, three special event stations will be operating from Puerto Rico in conjunction with the Grand Regatta Columbus 92 - Fifth Centennial. Look for stations signing KP4/500. See your July 1992 QST for suggested frequencies and information.

COMING EVENTS:

LIVERMORE SWAP MEET: 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA. 7 AM to Noon, all year. Contact N7TVE for info.

FOOTHILL SWAP MEET: 2nd Saturday of each month, March-September.

Foothill College, Los Altos, CA

ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION: August 20-23, 1992 at the LAX Marriott Hotel. Contact WA6WZN for Info.

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY: October 3-4, 1992. Contact N6TV for information.

SIERRA HAMFEST AND COMPUTER FAIRE: October 10 1992. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, NV. Contact Ed Rogers, W6FFT for information.

PACIFICON '92 ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION: October 16-18, 1992. Concord Hilton Hotel, Concord, CA. Contact Pete Tormey, N6QGN for information.

INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION: April 16-18,1992. Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA. Contact Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL for more information.

The following article was inadvertently omitted from the last SCCARA-GRAM and is include this month to keep you informed. My apologies to Gary, WB6YRU.

Editor

FLEA MARKET REPORT

At first, it didn't look like the May Foothill Electronic Flea Market would be a good one for us because most of our flea market goodies were, how shall I put it, less than stellar. However, thanks to some significant donations by Gene W6LYG (our secretary) and Eric KK6DA, we raked in \$281.91 (after expenses).

Kudos go to: Don Hayden KC6WMM who help transport items and sell stuff until the end, Frank McCormick AA6LL helped sell and return unsold stuff to the locker (by the way, Frank made the first three sales of the day shortly after we arrived around 5:15 AM).

I am sorry to report that Frank will be leaving us soon for Ohio. He has been very active in SCCARA and is the one who started selling things at the flea market to raise money for the club (among other things). Frank, you will be sorely missed! He tells me he plans to monitor 14.25 MHz occasionally; so, if you hear AA6LL on the air in the future, be sure to say hello.

The next Flea Market (June 13) will be sponsored by SCCARA! Are you going to be extremely busy that day? If not, how about helping? The latest estimate is that we will need about 25 people to avoid overworking anyone, (remember: many hands make light work!). If you can lend a hand and have not volunteered yet, please contact Lou WA6QYS NOW, IMMEDIATELY, QUICK-- June 13 is nearly here! Most of



the help will be needed at the concession stand. Afterward, we'll be responsible for making sure the parking lot is free of "leftovers" and other flotsam and jetsam.

SCCARA will not run a booth this time as we normally do; instead, the regular flea market crew will be at Lou's disposal for this one. It will be business as usual for the July flea market, so keep those donations coming.

By the way: Yes, it's true--we all must now pay a \$1 parking fee at Foothill College! (Buyers and sellers alike, sellers must also pay the usual \$10 per spot.) Rumor has it that De Anza College tried this, and as a result, nearly ruined their computer flea market. As far as we are concerned, the timing of this revolting development couldn't be worse; hopefully, it won't cut into our gate receipts too much.

73, Gary WB6YRU

JUNE FLEA MARKET



I would like to acknowledge the following people for their help in making the SCCARA sponsored Foothill Flea Market a great success. As it was noted in last month's column, this was a manpower intensive endeavor.



These stalwart hams are owed a debt of gratitude for answering the call for help, thereby increasing the club's fortunes and publicizing SCCARA to the Amateur Community at large.

Participating were;

KD6ABI, W6ACW, KD6FJI, KD6FTJ,
KN6K, KB6ICQ, KB6LCJ, KB6LFZ,
AA6LL, W6LYG, WM6M, WA6O, KB6HO,
K6PBQ, KC6PUQ, KC6QOC, WN6U,
KB6UOO, WA6VJY, WB5VUL, KC6WMM,
KA6YMD, WB6YRU, KK6ZE.



My personal thanks to all of you for your participation. Hopefully, the Perham Foundation was satisfied with our performance and will see fit to continue our association for many years to come.

de Lou, WA6QYS

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Lou for his leadership in this endeavor. Thank you, Lou, from SCCARA.
Editor

(MORE PHOTO'S ON FOLLOWING PAGES)

From the following article, you will see that Frank McCormick, AA6LL was the driving force for SCCARA's initial and continued presence at the Foothill Flea Market. It was largely due to his continued presence that we were chosen to sponsor the June event. Therefore, it is only fitting that this tribute to him be interlaced with photos of the major event for which he is so largely responsible.

Editor

CHEERS FOR FRANK, AA6LL

Those of you that have gotten to know Frank and Frank's endeavors at SCCARA know him to be a major contributor to the club's well being. Frank is a doer!! For the last several years he coordinated the weekly training sessions at the Santa Clara Adult Education center. Many hams owe their licenses to Frank's fine example.



Frank was also the originator of the club booth at the Foothill Flea Market. This booth, though dealing

in stuff that is "low on the ecological scale" managed to bring in several thousands of dollars to the repeater fund. The idea began with Frank's desire to see the improved performance of the repeater be sustained. He started the flea market booth and convinced the Board to earmark the funds for sustaining and improving the repeater. Great job Frank!



I know there is no way that the club can repay you for your many contributions, but keep in touch and let us know how you are doing.

73... Mike

GOOD LUCK, HERB KB6ABG



We hate to see you go. I have just started keeping statistics regarding our membership and must point out that Herb is one of six members that has attended 100% of our club meetings since the first of the year. Same thing goes for the board.

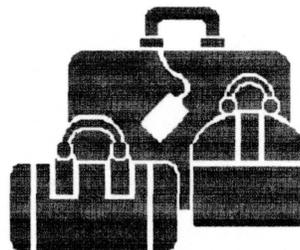
So what's he done for the club? Well for starters, he has been an elected board member for the past 8 years. Herb is not too liberal and not too conservative and was a real asset to the board. He also was a regular on the election committee. This is a difficult and sometimes thankless job but Herb persevered.

And let's not forget the fine meals that Herb and his wife, Cynthia put on for us at Field Day. The two of them literally devoted the whole weekend to keeping us fed and happy. Thank you for that.

Well Herb, I know you are looking forward to doing a little traveling and maybe settling in some other (less expensive and less crazy) part of the US. But never forget that you have made some solid friends here in Silicon valley.



73 Mike KB6LCJ



PICNIC IN AUGUST

Plans are afoot for a club picnic. The date had initially been set for August 16 but that would conflict with the Emergency Response Institute. The new date is Sunday August 9. It will be held at the Harris Lass House which is a historical landmark in the city of Santa Clara. The time will be from noon till 5:00 PM. The club will furnish soda and charcoal. Members will be requested to bring a dish. Please put this date on your calendar and stay tuned to W6UU/R for details.

Mike, KB6LCJ



SCCARA ENTERS THE COMPUTER AGE

Well, in the last newsletter I mentioned that the club now owns two computers. There has been much progress since then. Bill N6ZPC performed some wizardry on both systems. Each now has a 50 MB hard disk and controller. These were donated, installed and checked out by Bill. Thanks Bill. The club really appreciates it.

In addition, the 286 system was outfitted with a VGA monitor and 3.5" floppy drive. Both systems performed very nicely at the field day. I hope that all who attended got to peck away a little.

The board also committed funds for the purchase of an AEA PK232 MBX terminal node controller. It will be installed at the San Jose Red Cross to link the computer to our Yeasu FT757. The club also owns a pair of 220 MHZ rigs which "may" make vhf packet usage possible. If you have an interest in learning more about packet, Amtor, RTTY and other modes please contact Doug WN6U for particulars.

73 Mike KB6LCJ

THE STATUS OF HAM RADIO

By WB2EZG (replying to WA2EQF)
(Tnx; Doc, W6ZRG)

There appears to be considerable misunderstanding of why the fortunes of amateur radio are as they are. The root cause of our problem today is that FCC no longer holds the amateur service in the high esteem it once did. This situation has been largely brought upon by the easing of general entry requirements into ham radio, which in turn has compromised our ability to justify our frequencies as a technical hobby as defined in Part 97.1. The FCC rather prefers it that way, I think. So it will do no good to talk to the FCC about this; rather, you have to go around them.

Amateur radio no longer provides a unique service to the country as one that can attract youth to science, technology, and educational pursuits in general. Until it is resurrected to achieve that goal, we have no hope of retaining our frequencies. Those who believe we need to compete on commercial grounds, including lawyers in the business of dealing with communications law, are sadly mistaken and furthermore, don't understand the problem or the unique history of amateur radio. The amateur radio market last year was only \$200 million, as compared to the \$26 billion of commercial electronics communications equipment. We could not compete on that level if we wanted to. Furthermore, we were not set up to do that.

For our numbers, there are more hams now, and more hams per capita, than there have been in any previous decade: 1 ham per 550 in the general population, versus 1 per 1000 in the 50s and 1 per 2500 in the 40s. So our numbers are not a problem-- we've grown five times faster than the general population! Yes, we could swell our ranks by

deregulating, but under these conditions we would not be able to meet the terms of Part 97.1 any longer; we would no longer have amateur radio, but a personal radio service. Indeed, with a no-code, no-theory license for HF already proposed, it is already here. And with that, perhaps fewer frequencies in the future.

Amateur radio is also finding it harder to compete in the area of emergency service. World technology has placed portable communications gear in the hands of many private and commercial organizations, making it easier to communicate in times of disaster.

Amateur radio's role in this regard, although not particularly compromised in the mercifully few instances where our services are required, does however place us in a somewhat redundant position for the services we provide.

The bottom line is that to survive, we must provide a service to the country that it otherwise would not have. Right now, EDUCATION is the only area where we can provide a unique service. I'm not speaking of the exam-by-rote techniques presently taught. That situation has resulted in a condition where only 12 percent of amateurs across all license classes understand, technically, what a VOLT is! We also have a condition where Extra Class hams can't apply simple Ohm's Law! And with all this talk about computers, many hams can't relate capacitance to chip speed! No, I'm speaking of real education in which the student clearly needs to understand what he or she is talking about to pass a bona fide amateur exam, not a memorized question pool. You don't get anything out of a person unless you demand it. Today's amateur exams no longer demand it.

(Continued Next Month..)

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Nets are held every Monday evening at 19:30 sharp.
except for the second Monday which is our meeting
night.

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